

SHELBY COUNTY BOARD MEETING

April 11, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.

Video archive of meeting can be found at shelbycounty-il.gov under You Tube

The Shelby County Board met on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. in Courtroom A of the Shelby County Courthouse in Shelbyville, Illinois.

Chairman Robert Orman called the meeting to order. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the prayer was given by board member Brent Wallace.

County Clerk Jessica Fox called the roll. Martin was absent.

Minutes for the March 14, 2024, board meeting were presented for approval. Williams made motion to approve the minutes. Firnhaber seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Chairman Orman announced a vacancy in County Board District #9 due to the resignation of Cody Brands.

Debbie Thompson, HR consultant with CIRMA insurance addressed the board about the need for an employee handbook for Shelby County. Thompson stated not having an employee handbook puts the county at a huge risk. The handbook can serve as a guidebook that sets clear expectations for employees. Thompson informed the board 7 new employment laws took effect on January 1, 2024, one of those being the Paid Leave for All Workers Act. This law comes with very stringent penalties if it is not followed. Thompson stated her services were included with the CIRMA contract. Thompson plans to work with the Legislative committee on a countywide employee handbook, as she feels this is best practice and can help protect the County from lawsuits.

EMA Director Scott McKee requested approval from the board for county membership to the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN). The costs are \$250 per year and in the event of a natural disaster or another event that overwhelmed the county resources as far as public works, the county would receive 5 free days of mutual aid from all over the State of Illinois. The IPWMAN has been in the works since 2018 and is slowly gaining membership. Clay, Effingham, and Lawrence County are surrounding counties that are members. This covers everything from small tools to semi-trucks to getting equipment in to assist the county with cleanup.

Firnhaber made motion to approve membership. Nelson seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (20 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martz, Mayhall, McCormick, Morse, Nelson, Orman, Ross, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay: none.

A special use permit for liquor sales by the Tippy Sipper was requested by No Bad Days Farms for their Rhythm and Blooms Festival to be held on Saturday, June 1, 2024, from 4:00 – 9:00 PM. This is an annual event for No Bad Days Farms. Approval allows the Chairman to issue the special use permit, which costs \$15.00. Cole made motion to approve the special use permit. McCormick seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Chairman Orman called for the Highway Engineer's report.

County Engineer Michael Tappendorf addressed the board to request approval for 3 resolutions. Tappendorf began his report by updating the board on what the department had been busy with. The new grader has been received and the employees are very happy with it. The maintenance crew has worked on reconstructing the lowboy trailer damaged by salt, done shoulder work in areas of the county, hauled rock, filled potholes, tested trucks, 50/50's on Prairie Township, culvert installations, signage, next week they will make 2200 tons of pugmill. The office team had also been busy looking into grants, bid lettings for 2 bridges, working on railroad crossings approaches, and working on design of the County Highway 5.

Tappendorf presented a resolution to award the low bid for guardrail replacement to Midwest Fence with their low bid of \$55,709. McCormick seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (20 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martz, Mayhall, McCormick, Morse, Nelson, Orman, Ross, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay: none.

Brown made motion to approve the resolution to approve the low bid award (\$495,847) for removal and replacement of a bridge in Oconee Township (over TR 387 over Matney Branch) to Samron Midwest Contracting. This bridge is located on TR Wallace seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (20 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martz, Mayhall, McCormick, Morse, Nelson, Orman, Ross, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay: none.

The final resolution presented for approval was to place no passing signage in the Findlay school zone on County Highway 3 west of Findlay. Brown made motion to approve the signage. Bennett seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

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Tappendorf informed the board he would like to hire another maintenance worker, which he has discussed with the road and bridge committee. Tappendorf was told if he has enough money in the budget and the Highway budget would not require an amendment he could hire an additional maintenance employee.

Deferring from the agenda, Orman called on Cole to update the board on a farming alternative to a cash lease for the county farm. Cole informed the board she had spoken with Stu Fox, who has offered to farm the county farm for nothing, if the county will purchase the seed and chemicals. Fox would provide the equipment, the fuel, and the manpower at no costs to the county to plant the farm and harvest the crop.

Cole made motion to approve an Ordinance concerning the County Farm. Boehm seconded said motion. A lengthy discussion ensued. Various topics discussed were the initial creation of county poor farms by IL, the IL constitution, oath taken by elected officials, making money not being a public purpose, risks of planting a crop being a violation of the county investment policy, HB1076, statements by state legislature that despite the signage of this bill by the Governor, farming still had to meet a public purpose, Dillon's rule, and the counties not being authorized to run a business.

With the approval of Boehm who seconded, Cole pulled her motion to approve the Ordinance.

The Farm Committee will meet and discuss planting a cover crop of the county farm ground as a contingency plan.

Firnhaber made motion to approve the county hire a camera operator to live stream the meetings as there have been some technical issues with the camera. Edwards seconded said motion. Charles Baker from Mytec Solution was live streaming the meeting. Options were discussed such as allowing volunteers, the county hiring someone to do this, paying a stipend per meeting. Firnhaber's motion, with Edwards seconded passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Chairman Orman presented a timekeeping policy for approval. Williams made motion to approve the timekeeping policy. McCormick seconded said motion. Much discussion was also had about the timekeeping policy. Concerns have been expressed the equipment is not functioning properly, the system is not user friendly, is this a user problem or a software problem, the county would like to get away from paper timesheets, there is only so much time to process payroll, as the file has to be to the bank by 2:00 PM on Wednesday of payroll week, there is inconsistency in departments, if the employee and manager approve time, it will be correct. Williams stated he hoped to have someone from CIC and the department heads meet in early May to discuss and work on the time system issues that some are having.

Mayhall made motion to table the timekeeping policy. Cole seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (14 yes, 6 no – Bennett, Brown, Firnhaber, McCormick, Orman, and Wallace).

Chairman Orman called for committee reports.

Animal Control attended training in Peoria and all 3 employees passed the class and are in compliance with State and Federal guidelines.

The U of I extension office was able to donate 927 pounds of deer meat.

At a recent 911 meeting, the communication issues were discussed. The board is looking at unique and effective options and looking at ways to have a broader range of communication for less money.

Continuing with Chairman appointments, Orman requested the following:

Julie Edwards to the Cooperative Extension Committee. Motion by Ross, seconded by McCormick. Motion passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Tad Mayhall to the Cooperative Extension Committee. Motion by Ross, seconded by McCormick. Motion passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Mitchell Shuff to the Cooperative Extension Committee. Motion by Firnhaber, seconded by Nelson. Motion passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Lavonne Chaney to the Mental Health "708" Board. Motion by Edwards, seconded by Boehm. Motion passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Tim Lenz as trustee of the Strasburg Fire Protection District. Motion by McCormick, seconded by Firnhaber. Motion passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Tim Uphoff as trustee of the Findlay Fire Protection District. Motion by Martz, seconded by Morse. Motion passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Ken Hoene as Shelbyville Fire Protection District Trustee. Motion by Firnhaber, seconded by Tate. Motion passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

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Don Selby as Tower Hill Fire Protection District Trustee. Motion by Firnhaber, seconded by Bennett. Motion passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Tom Cole as Windsor Fire Protection District Trustee. Motion by Ross, seconded by Williams. Motion passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Robert Hemer as Moweaqua Fire Protection District Trustee. Motion by Brown, seconded by Bennett. Motion passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Mayhall as chair of the Public Safety committee and Cole and Morse to replace Martin and Nelson. Motion by Ross, seconded by Martz. Motion passed by voice vote (17 yes, 3 no – Brown, Firnhaber, and Williams).

Martz to the Farm committee. Motion by Williams, seconded by Williams. Motion passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Nelson to the Finance committee to replace Boehm. Motion by Tate, seconded by Bennett. Motion passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Austin Pritchard as Dive Team Commander. Motion by Ross, seconded by Cole. Motion passed by voice vote (17 yes, 3 no – Brown, Firnhaber, and Williams).

Bennett made motion to approve the payment of claims as reviewed by the respective committees. Tate seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (20 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martz, Mayhall, McCormick, Morse, Nelson, Orman, Ross, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay: none.

At 9:17 PM, Chairman Orman called for Public Body Comment.

Public comments/opinions expressed on the following topics:

Negative opinions on farming the farm
Farming the farm
ASA Ambroziak working remotely and SA under budget
Dive Team
Trust, apologies, and compromises, and folks coming together to find resolution on the dive team
County audit

Wallace left the meeting at 9:57 PM.

There was no further business to come before the Shelby County Board.

Bennett made motion to adjourn until the next regular scheduled meeting to be held on May 9, 2024. Williams seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (19 yes, 0 no) and the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 PM.

Jessica Fox
Shelby County Clerk and Recorder